

Congressional report gives Valley leverage



Data in a Congressional Research Service report will be useful in ensuring the San Joaquin Valley is not overlooked for federal funding on key infrastructure projects.

The final version of a Congressional study detailing the economic and social needs of an eight-county area of the San Joaquin Valley was released in late December.

Rep. Devin Nunes and other Valley members asked for the study nearly two years ago to determine if the area was getting its fair share from the federal government.

The non-partisan Congressional Research Service report revealed that the federal government spends about \$2,400 less per person in the Central Valley than anywhere else in the country, including some of the nation's historically poorest regions.

Rep. Nunes said it was important to compile defini-

tive information on the plight of the Valley to gain additional leverage in obtaining federal funds and grants for the area.

A copy of the 365-page report can be viewed online at www.nunes.house.gov.

The report includes a detailed look at the San Joaquin Valley, including information about poverty and unemployment, social and health issues, environmental and natural resource issues, transportation investment and economic development.

In June 2004, six lawmakers (Reps. Cardoza, Dooley, Nunes, Pombo, Radanovich and Thomas) requested the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service to study the current socioeconomic and environmental concerns in the San

Joaquin Valley.

The study's major analytical focus is the eight counties that largely comprise the Valley (and that represent the six members' Congressional Districts): Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Tulare. The report also focuses on the six metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) of the valley: Fresno, Merced, Modesto, Stockton-Lodi, Bakersfield, and Visalia-Tulare-Porterville.

Preliminary data from the report released earlier in the year has already been successfully included in grant applications, one of which was for College of the Sequoias that was fully funded to expand a much-needed nursing program in Tulare County.

Quick Facts

Rep. Devin Nunes maintains two offices in the 21st Congressional District to serve the needs of his constituents. His main office is in Visalia at 113 N. Church St., Suite 208. The telephone number is 733-3861.

His Fresno County office is in Clovis at 264 Clovis Ave., Suite 206. The telephone number is 323-5528.